

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF SPORTSMEN TO AMERICAN SOCIETY

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 362) recognizing the importance and contributions of sportsmen to American society, supporting the traditions and values of sportsmen, and recognizing the many economic benefits associated with outdoor sporting activities.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 362

Whereas there are more than 38 million sportsmen in the United States;

Whereas these sportsmen, who come from all walks of life, engage in a sport they love, while helping to stimulate the economy, especially in small, rural communities, and contributing to conservation efforts;

Whereas sportsmen demonstrate values of conservation, appreciation of the outdoors, and love of the natural beauty of the United States;

Whereas sporting activities have both physical and mental health benefits that allow Americans to escape from the fast pace of their lives and to spend time with their families and friends;

Whereas sportsmen pass down their love of the outdoors from generation to generation;

Whereas many sportsmen consider hunting, trapping, and fishing of tremendous importance to the American way of life;

Whereas sportsmen have a passion for learning about nature and have a tremendous respect for the game pursued, other sportsmen, the non-hunting populace, and the natural resources upon which they depend;

Whereas the total economic contribution of sportsmen amounts to \$70 billion annually, with a ripple effect amounting to \$179 billion;

Whereas sportsmen contribute \$1.7 billion every year for conservation programs, and these funds constitute a significant portion of on-the-ground wildlife conservation funding;

Whereas anglers support one million jobs and small businesses in communities in every part of the United States, and they purchase \$3.2 billion in basic fishing equipment every year;

Whereas tens of millions of Americans hunt and are a substantial economic force, spending \$21 billion every year;

Whereas a sportsman President, Theodore Roosevelt, established America's first National Wildlife Refuge 100 years ago, and with the committed support of sportsmen over the last century, this system includes more than 540 refuges spanning 95 million acres throughout all 50 States;

Whereas the funds raised from sportsmen through their purchase of Federal migratory

bird hunting and conservation stamps under the Act of March 16, 1934, (commonly known as the Duck Stamp Act, 16 U.S.C. 718a et seq.), are used to purchase and restore vital wetlands in the refuge system;

Whereas the sale of such stamps has raised more than 500 million dollars which has been used to acquire approximately 5 million acres of refuge lands so far;

Whereas, in 1937, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.), whereby sportsmen and the firearms and ammunition industries agreed to a self-imposed 10 percent excise tax on ammunition and firearms, the proceeds of which are distributed to the States for wildlife restoration;

Whereas the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act has created a source of permanent funding for State wildlife agencies that has been used to rebuild and expand the ranges of numerous species, including wild turkey, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope, wood duck, beaver, black bear, American elk, bison, desert bighorn sheep, bobcat, and mountain lion, and several non-game species, including bald eagles, sea otters, and numerous song birds;

Whereas, in 1950, Congress passed the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777 et seq.) whereby recreational anglers and the fishing and tackle manufacturing industries agreed to a self-imposed 10 percent excise tax on sport fishing equipment (including fishing rods, reels, lines, and hooks, artificial lures, baits and flies, and other fishing supplies and accessories), the proceeds of which are used for the purposes of constructing fish hatcheries, building boat access facilities, promoting fishing, and educating children about aquatic resources and fishing; and

Whereas the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act was amended in 1984 to extend the excise tax to previously untaxed items of sport fishing equipment and to dedicate a portion of the existing Federal tax on motorboat fuels to such purposes, such that now approximately one-third of all the funds expended by State fish and wildlife agencies for maintenance and development of sports fisheries are collected through the use of this excise tax: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the importance and contributions of sportsmen to American society;

(2) supports the traditions and values of sportsmen;

(3) supports the many conservation programs implemented by sportsmen;

(4) recognizes the many economic benefits associated with outdoor sporting activities; and

(5) recognizes the importance of encouraging the recruitment of, and teaching the traditions of hunting, trapping, and fishing to, future sportsmen.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this bipartisan resolution to recognize the valuable contributions of the 38 million sportsmen in the United States. Hunting, fishing and trapping is woven into the fabric of our cultural heritage. There have been many nota-

ble hunters and fishermen throughout our history, including the father of the National Wildlife System, President Theodore Roosevelt; the founder of the Audubon Society, John James Audubon; and the great literary writer, Ernest Hemingway.

Today's sportsmen contribute more than \$70 billion annually to our economy with a positive ripple effect amounting to \$179 billion. Both hunters and fishermen voluntarily pay Federal excise taxes on guns, rods, reels, ammunition and outdoor equipment. In fact, since 1937, sportsmen have contributed billions of dollars through the Pittman-Robertson Act and the Dingell-Johnson Act for the benefit of all fish and wildlife species.

Mr. Speaker, autumn is rapidly approaching, and soon 28 million Americans will take to the woods and streams to enjoy nature, relax and reaffirm their connection to the land. These sportsmen are the true environmentalists who have sacrificed time, money, and labor to improve habitat throughout the Nation. Let there be no mistake, without fishermen and hunters, there would be no Canadian geese, ducks, striped bass, rainbow trout or wild turkeys because there would be no money to maintain the habitat which is essential to the survival of these species.

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All of us have fishermen and hunters in our districts. This resolution is important for them and for the millions who enjoy hiking, bird watching, and wildlife photography. Without the dollars and leadership provided by sportsmen, there would be no fish or wildlife to enjoy.

I want to compliment the sponsors of this resolution, including the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES), the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) for their leadership on behalf of sportsmen in this country. This resolution, which has been endorsed by 44 hunting and conservation groups, will recognize the importance of sportsmen, conservation programs, outdoor sporting activities, and the importance of teaching the traditions of hunting and fishing.

I urge an "aye" vote on House Resolution 362.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, as stated by my colleague, the previous speaker, this noncontroversial resolution would recognize the importance

and contribution of sportsmen to the American economy and our traditional values.

Mr. Speaker, there is little doubt that hunting and fishing remain popular recreational pastimes for millions of Americans. These activities remain as much a fabric of American culture as the village green in New England or the county fair in Nebraska.

According to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, expenditures by sportsmen in 2001 totaled \$70 billion. By any measure, this is a significant figure. It demonstrates the substantial economic importance of these traditional forms of outdoor recreation to our national economy, but most especially to our rural economy.

I support this resolution and urge other Members to do likewise. However, I also consider it important to note that other types of nonconsumptive wildlife-based recreation, activities such as bird watching and wildlife photography, also provide significant economic benefits that we would be remiss to overlook.

According to National Survey data, these activities contributed an additional \$38.4 billion to the economy in the same year. In fact, over 66 million people enjoyed these activities, almost double the number of sportsmen who only hunt or fish.

In passing this resolution, I hope that the economic and social contributions of these other people who enjoy our Nation's abundant wildlife diversity will also not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH).

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from New Mexico for the leadership that he has provided on this important committee and on this resolution.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 362, a bill that I sponsored with many, many of my colleagues. There is tremendous interest in the Congress in sporting issues; and we have a broad caucus of Members, I believe, from every State and territory. This resolution expresses this body's support for millions of Americans who partake in sportsman activities.

With fall in the air, some of the best hunting and fishing days of the year are just around the corner. As this Saturday, September 27, is recognized as National Hunting and Fishing Day, there is no better time to honor the American sportsman and -woman.

Sporting activities provide families with an escape from the fast-paced life of modern society. Through outdoor activities, parents and children are able to spend quality time together, and time-honored traditions are passed on from generation to generation. Some of my fondest memories were spent growing up with my family hunting and fishing in the Finger Lakes region of

New York. I still am involved in both of those but have added birding and hiking to those outdoor activities, also. It is a wonderful way to spend time to learn about the environment, to gain an appreciation for nature and its wonder.

In addition to sporting's positive impact upon the American family, most anglers and hunters alike are ardent environmentalists. They are respectful and appreciative of our Nation's natural resources and beauty and often pass that same level of appreciation and respect and understanding on to their children when participating in outdoor activities. My own commitment to environmental preservation and protection of our water resources stems from lessons learned and experiences undertaken as a youngster in the woods and on the lake.

Through licensing fees and associated charges, American sportsmen and -women contribute millions of dollars annually to the protection of wetlands critical to habitat, forests and unique environmental sites and the propagation of various species. American sporting activities also have a significant impact on our Nation's economy. This \$70 billion industry benefits the economy everywhere from the big city to the small town. Anglers alone support 1 million jobs nationwide and buy \$3.2 billion in fishing equipment every year.

It was a fellow New Yorker, President Theodore Roosevelt, an avid outdoorsman and environmentalist, who established America's first wildlife refuge and laid the foundation for our current national park system. It was this sportsman President's leadership that led to our Nation's tradition of strong environmental stewardship today.

Mr. Speaker, if it had not been for the resolution and the work of this body today, I would have been on the Salmon River just north of my district in the district of the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) because there is a tremendous salmon run on today because of the rainstorm that we received last night. It is breathtaking in its beauty to plumb those waters and breathe the crisp fall air that is inhabiting that area right now.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, this resolution provides the U.S. House of Representatives with a perfect opportunity to recognize the importance and impact American sportsmen have in our country today. As a member of the bipartisan Sportsmen's Caucus, I encourage my colleagues to support this deserved resolution.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT).

(Mr. BOEHLERT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHLERT. I thank my colleague for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 362, a resolution that honors

our Nation's sportsmen for their importance and contributions to American society and recognizes the many benefits associated with outdoor sporting activities on our Nation's economy.

My good friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), and I, working with our partners at the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, drafted this resolution in honor of the 32nd observance of National Hunting and Fishing Day on September 27, 2003. This resolution is strongly supported by the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, and over 40 sportsmen and conservation groups, including Ducks Unlimited and the National Rifle Association.

The thousands of sportsmen in my district have much to be grateful for in upstate New York. From the Adirondacks to the Catskills to the Finger Lakes and the wonderful waterways throughout my district, I am privileged to represent such a pristine place. My district is home to some of the Nation's most captivating trout fishing rivers and rich hunting land, and I will continue to lead the charge in Congress to promote conservation efforts to keep the air we breathe and the water we drink clean and safe for future generations. My experience has proved to me that our Nation's sportsmen are among the most responsible stewards of our precious environment. I am their partner.

In addition to their important role as conservationists in the field, sportsmen are an integral component of economic success in New York and across the Nation. In 2001 alone, the over-38 million sportsmen nationwide directly injected \$70 billion into our Nation's economy. New York State's 714,000 bow and gun hunters and 1.5 million anglers had a \$56.2 million impact on the Empire State. Hunters, anglers, and trappers also contributed to over 29,000 jobs in New York State. Mr. Speaker, jobs is my favorite four-letter word.

Following in the steps of Theodore Roosevelt, one of our Nation's truly great conservationists, really the first truly great conservationist, we must work together to ensure that our open spaces enjoyed by sportsmen are protected for use for years to come. Clean water and clean air are essential to enjoying activities like hunting, fishing, and trapping. They are recreational, they are good for the mind, and they are good for the spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we include the following letter of support for H. Res. 362 from over 40 sportsmen and conservation organizations in the appropriate place in the RECORD. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring our Nation's sportsmen and vote in favor of H. Res. 362.

September 10, 2003.

Hon. RICHARD POMBO, MC,
Chairman, House Committee on Resources,
Longworth HOB, Washington, DC.

Hon. NICK J. RAHALL, MC,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Re-
sources, Longworth HOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN POMBO AND CONGRESSMAN RAHALL: The listed sportsmen conservationist organizations, representing millions of sportsmen and women across America, are writing in support of H. Res. 362, a resolution recognizing the importance and contribution of sports men and women to American society and our nation's economy.

With the coming of fall, a time-honored tradition for America's 38 million-plus sportsmen begins anew. Fall marks the beginning of the hunting season and often offers some of the best fishing. It is a time for families and friends to spend quality time in America's great outdoors, to escape the fast-paced life of suburbia, and to appreciate the beauty and bounty of nature. It provides an opportunity to pass down skills and traditions that reach back for generations, and to foster an understanding and appreciation of nature and the role of conservation and wildlife management.

For sportsmen there is also a responsibility for good stewardship for America's wildlife and natural resources. Through excise taxes on sporting equipment, license fees and conservation stamps such as the federal duck stamp, sportsmen directly contribute \$1.7 billion every year for conservation programs. The total economic contribution of sportsmen amounts to \$70 billion annually, with a ripple effect amounting to \$179 billion per year. To put this in context, if sportsmen were a corporation, they would rank #11 on the Fortune 500 list.

September 27th marks National Hunting and Fishing Day, so we are asking that you and your colleagues expeditiously move this resolution so that the House of Representatives can approve it and reaffirm the appreciation for America's sportsmen on Capitol Hill.

Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association;
BASS/ESPN Outdoors; Bear Trust
International; Boone and Crockett
Club; Bowhunting Preservation Alliance;
Buckmasters American Deer
Foundation; California Waterfowl Association;
Campfire Club of America;
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation;
Conservation Force; Conservation Fund.

Dallas Safari Club; Delta Waterfowl;
Ducks Unlimited; Foundation for
North American Wild Sheep; Houston
Safari Club; Hunting and Shooting
Sports Heritage Trust; International
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies;
International Hunter Education
Association; Izaak Walton League of
America; Mule Deer Foundation.

National Rifle Association; National
Shooting Sports Foundation; National
Trappers Association; National Wild
Turkey Federation; North American
Grouse Partnership; Northwest
Sportfishing Industry Association;
Orion The Hunter's Institute; Pheasants
Forever; Pope and Young Club;
Pure Fishing; Quail Unlimited, Inc.

Quality Deer Management Association;
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation;
Ruffed Grouse Society; Safari Club
International; Texas Wildlife Association;
The Wildlife Society; U.S. Sports-
men's Alliance; Whitetails Unlimited,
Inc.; Wildlife Forever; Wildlife Habitat
Council; Wildlife Management Insti-
tute.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 362.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 21) commemorating the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 21

Whereas in 1803, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France for a total of \$15,000,000;

Whereas President Thomas Jefferson designated Robert Livingston and James Monroe to negotiate the treaty with Napoleon Bonaparte;

Whereas the Louisiana Purchase included 827,987 square miles, nearly 600,000,000 acres, the largest single land purchase in our Nation's history;

Whereas the Louisiana Purchase territory stretched from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, nearly doubling the size of the United States at that time;

Whereas this purchase enabled dramatic further westward expansion and helped fuel the Nation's rise as a world power;

Whereas 15 States or parts of States were carved out of the Louisiana Purchase territory, including Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming;

Whereas the land was acquired by peaceful means, in stark contrast to the usual methods of old-style empires, which often conquered new territories by force;

Whereas the acquisition secured the United States' trading abilities by guaranteeing its navigation rights on the Mississippi River and its ability to send goods through the Port of New Orleans for shipment to the Atlantic Coast and Europe; and

Whereas generations of Americans have benefited from President Jefferson's noble vision of America and his efforts at expanding our new Nation onto the continent: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase, recognizes the extraordinary work of the individuals involved in the transaction, and is grateful for the tremendous part the event played in fulfilling our Nation's Manifest Destiny.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 21, introduced by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), would commemorate the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase. As my colleagues know, the Louisiana Purchase was the largest single land acquisition in our Nation's history, 827,987 square miles, or nearly 600 million acres. Purchased from France in 1803 for \$15 million, it stretched from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, nearly doubling the size of the United States at the time. Today, 15 States or parts of States exist within the area carved out by the Louisiana Purchase.

House Concurrent Resolution 21 is a commemorative resolution that would pay homage to one of the most significant events of our Nation's history. I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 21.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, it would be difficult to overstate the historical significance of the Louisiana Purchase. Looking back, it is difficult to imagine a single land purchase which doubled the size of this Nation, and it is equally hard to imagine what America might look like today had that purchase not been made.

We support the findings and sentiments expressed in this concurrent resolution and support its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, this year the United States celebrates this very significant anniversary, the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase.

In my home State of Louisiana in particular, but really all across the country, celebrations are taking place throughout this year in honor of the role this historic event played in our Nation's history. When President Jefferson designated Robert Livingston and James Monroe to negotiate the Louisiana Purchase treaty with Napoleon Bonaparte, he hoped to secure for the country the Port of New Orleans and guarantee access to the important trade route along the Mississippi River. Of course, he did accomplish that; but he accomplished so much more than even that, doubling the size of the new country. The whole territory stretched from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and included all or part of what are now 15 States; and, of course, it enabled further westward expansion by later settlers.